Infer the *Type* of Problem & Solution
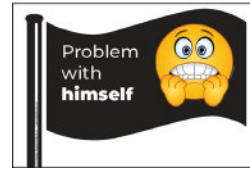
3 TYPES OF STORY
Problems

Identify WHO the main character is upset with. It may be one character or multiple. It may be a human or an animal (e.g., realistic, fantasy).

Identify WHAT the main character wants but can't have. It may be a physical object (e.g., missing, broken, not working). It may be a situation (e.g., weather, not invited to a party, something is not fair, etc.).

Identify WHY the main character is struggling. These are problems *within* the character; he is his own problem. They may be related to his choices (e.g., negative behavior, poor attitude) or his feelings (e.g., fear, guilt).

TEXT EXAMPLES

Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type, Doreen Cronin

Dex: The Heart of a Hero, Caralyn Buehner

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, Kevin Henkes

The Name Jar, Yangsook Choi

TEXT EXAMPLES

Come On, Rain! Karen Hesse

Crazy Hair Day, Barney Saltzberg

The Most Magnificent Thing, Ashley Spires

TEXT EXAMPLES

After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again), Dan Santat

A Bad Case of Stripes, David Shannon

My Mouth Is a Volcano, Julia Cook

The Recess Queen, Alexis O'Neill

We Don't Eat Our Classmates, Ryan T. Higgins

When Sophie Gets Angry— Really, Really Angry..., Molly Bang

3 TYPES OF STORY
Solutions

Identify WHO helped the main character. Another character helps to solve the problem (e.g., rescues from danger, offers advice or warning, provides resources or support, etc.).

Identify WHAT was the item, object, or idea that finally solved the problem (e.g., a specific technique, strategy, decision, a physical tool).

Identify WHY the main character feels better— he changed his attitude, he altered his behavior, time passes, the situation evolves or resolves.

TEXT EXAMPLES

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TEXT EXAMPLES

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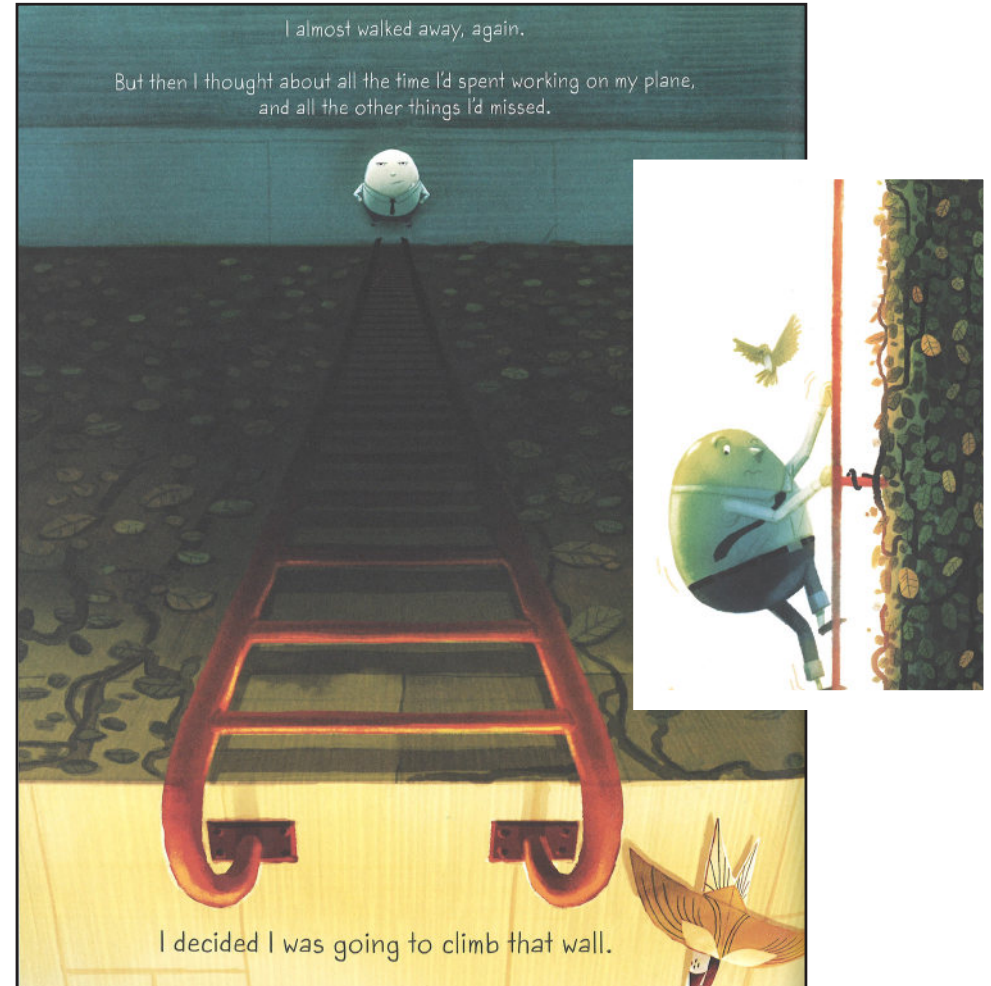
Come On, Rain! Karen Hesse

Dex: The Heart of a Hero, Caralyn Buehner

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, Kevin Henkes

My name is Humpty Dumpty.

This was my favorite spot, high up on the wall.
I know, it's an odd place for an egg to be,
but I loved being close to the birds.

Then one day, I fell. (I'm sort of famous for that part.)

Folks called it "The Great Fall," which sounds a little grand.

It was just an accident.

But it changed my life.

I almost walked away, again.

But then I thought about all the time I'd spent working on my plane,
and all the other things I'd missed.

I decided I was going to climb that wall.

LITERAL PROBLEM: Humpty Dumpty became afraid of heights after he fell from the wall.

LITERAL SOLUTION: He faced his fears and forced himself to go up the ladder to retrieve his airplane.
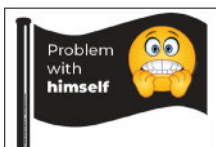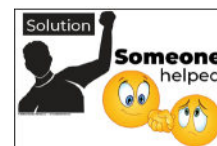
Problems & Solutions

Camilla Cream loved lima beans. But she never ate them. All of her friends hated lima beans, and she wanted to fit in. Camilla was always worried about what other people thought of her.

Today she was fretting even more than usual. It was the first day of school, and she couldn't decide what to wear. There were so many people to impress! She tried on forty-two outfits, but none seemed quite right. She put on a pretty red dress and looked in the mirror. Then she screamed.
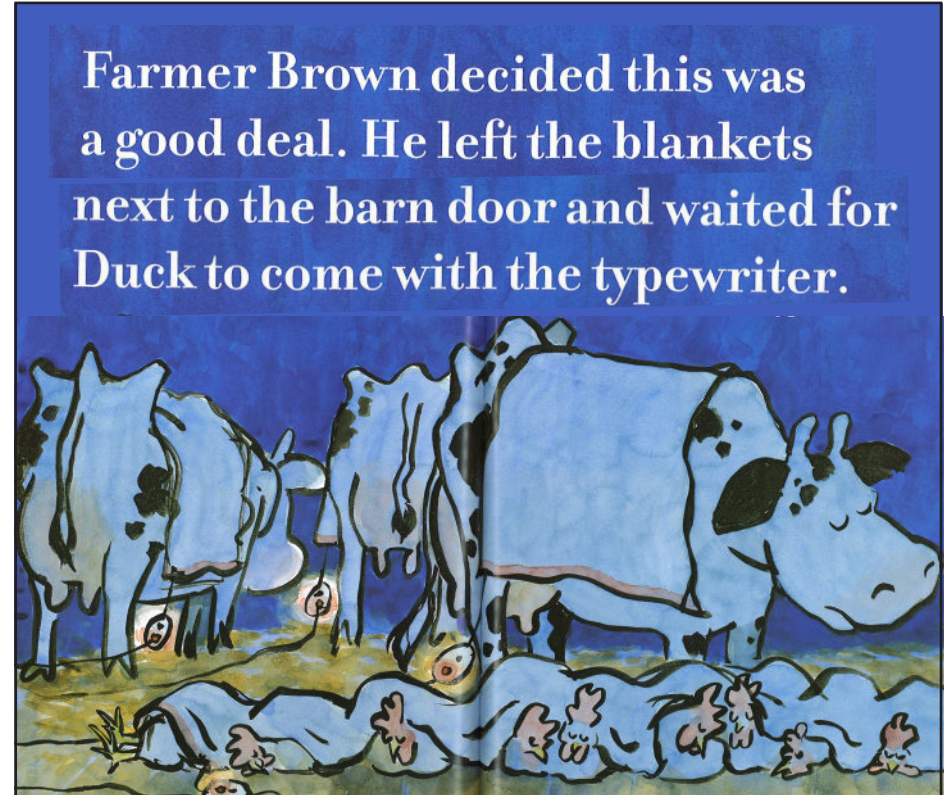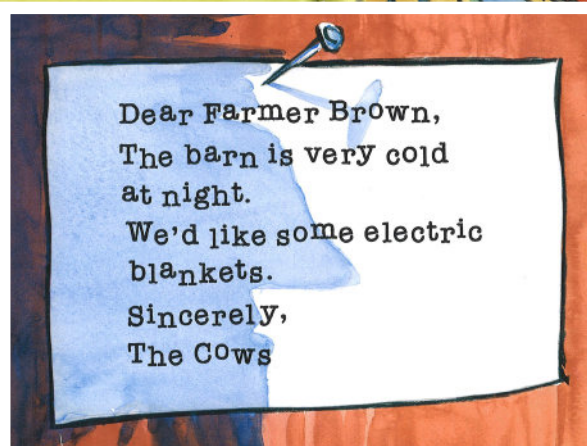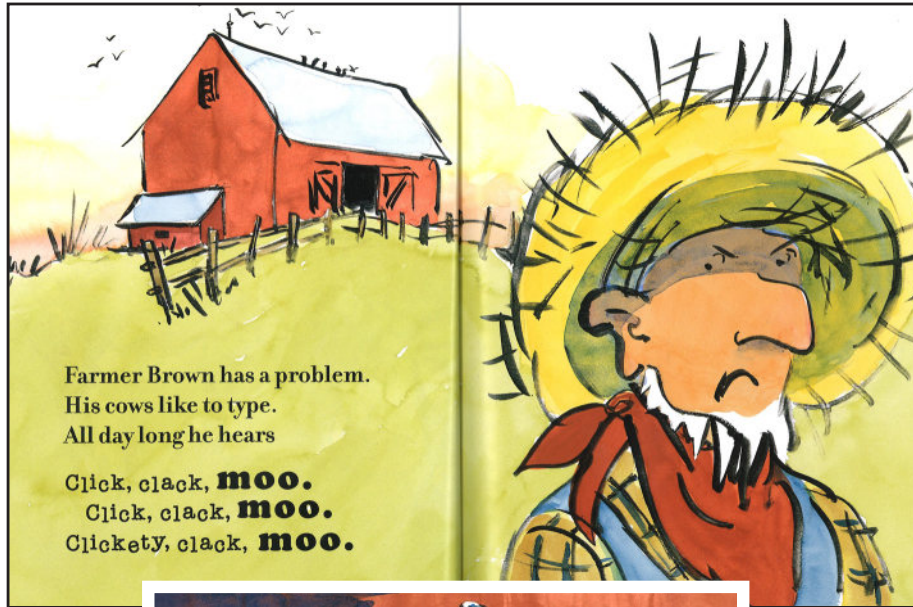
LITERAL PROBLEM: Camilla denied liking lima beans and ended up with a bad case of stripes.

LITERAL SOLUTION: An old woman stopped by to "cure" Camilla and showed her that liking lima beans can be a good thing.

Farmer Brown has a problem.
His cows like to type.
All day long he hears

Click, clack, **moo.**
Click, clack, **moo.**
Clickety, clack, **moo.**

Dear Farmer Brown,
The barn is very cold
at night.
We'd like some electric
blankets.
Sincerely,
The Cows

Farmer Brown decided this was a good deal. He left the blankets next to the barn door and waited for Duck to come with the typewriter.
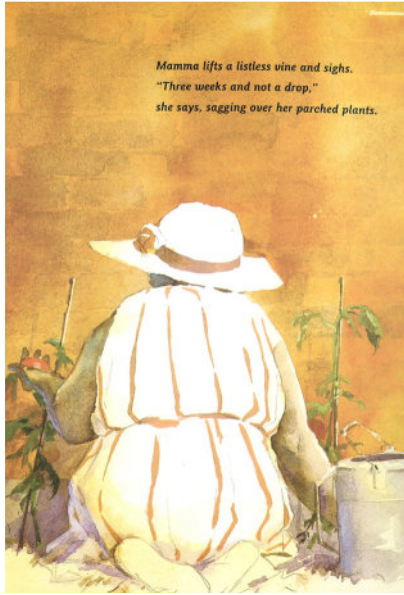

LITERAL PROBLEM: Farmer Brown's cows and hens typed a note refusing to work unless they were given electric blankets.

LITERAL SOLUTION: Farmer Brown traded the electric blankets to the cows and hens for the typewriter so they would give milk and eggs again.

Mamma lifts a listless vine and sighs.
"Three weeks and not a drop,"
she says, sagging over her parched plants.

"Come on, rain!" I say,
squinting into the endless heat.

Then a deeper gray descends
and the air cools and the clouds burst,

and suddenly
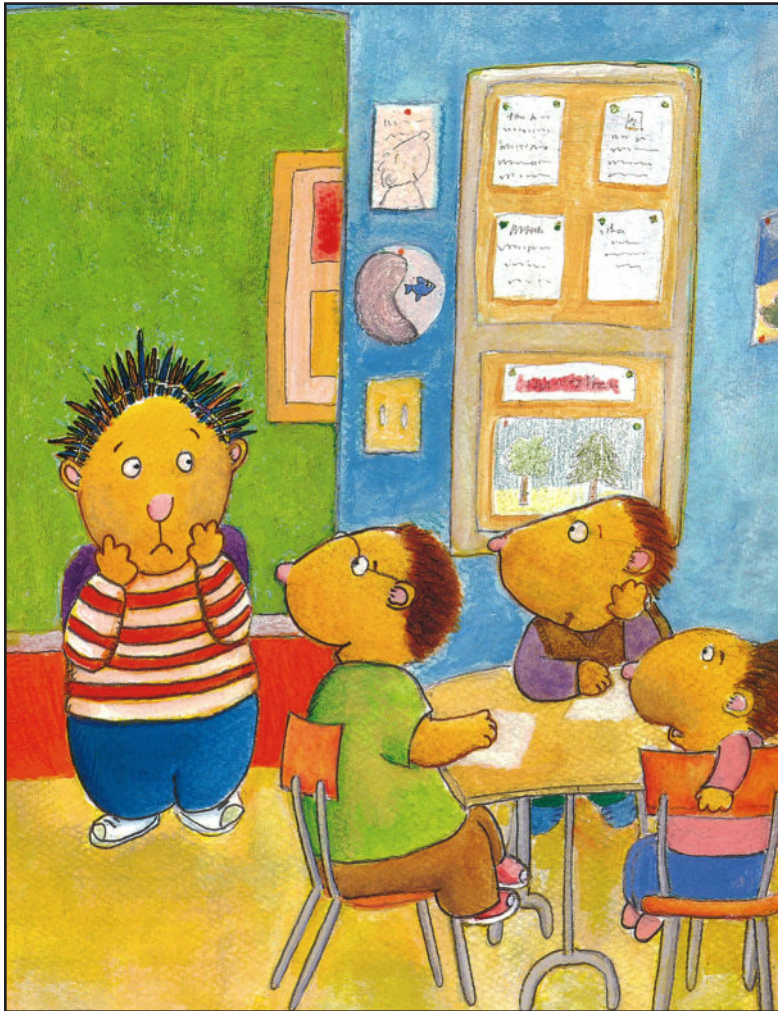rain is everywhere.

"Come on, rain!" we shout.

LITERAL PROBLEM: The city was without rain for three weeks.

LITERAL SOLUTION: The rain finally came and everyone went into the street rejoicing with renewed energy.

Problems & Solutions

Stanley felt someone touch his shoulder. "I was just coming to get you," said Larry Finchfeather.
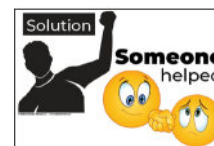
"What if they laugh at me again?" asked Stanley.

"Everything will be fine," Larry whispered.
"I promise!"

LITERAL PROBLEM: Stanley realized he mixed up Crazy Hair Day and Picture Day.

LITERAL SOLUTION: Larry, his classmate, told Stanley that the class picture wouldn't be the same without him and convinced the class to have crazy hair, too.
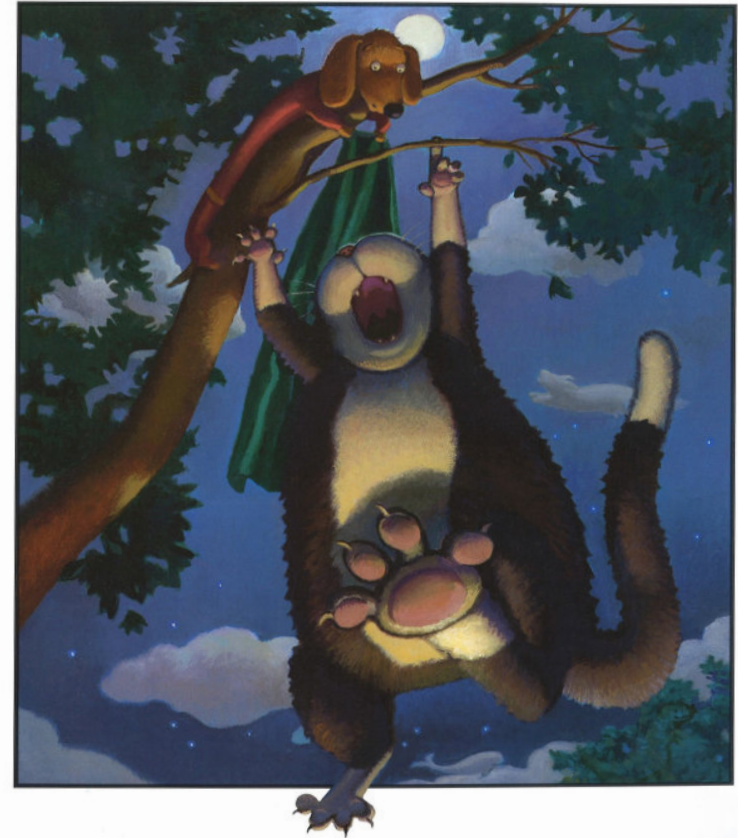
Problems & Solutions

Dex scrambled onto the branch next to Cleevis. Quickly he pulled off his cape and tied its four corners onto the screeching cat.

"Jump!" Dex shouted. "Jump, Cleevis!"

Problem with someone

LITERAL PROBLEM: Dex wanted to be a superhero, but Cleevis and other neighborhood animals made fun of him for being so little.
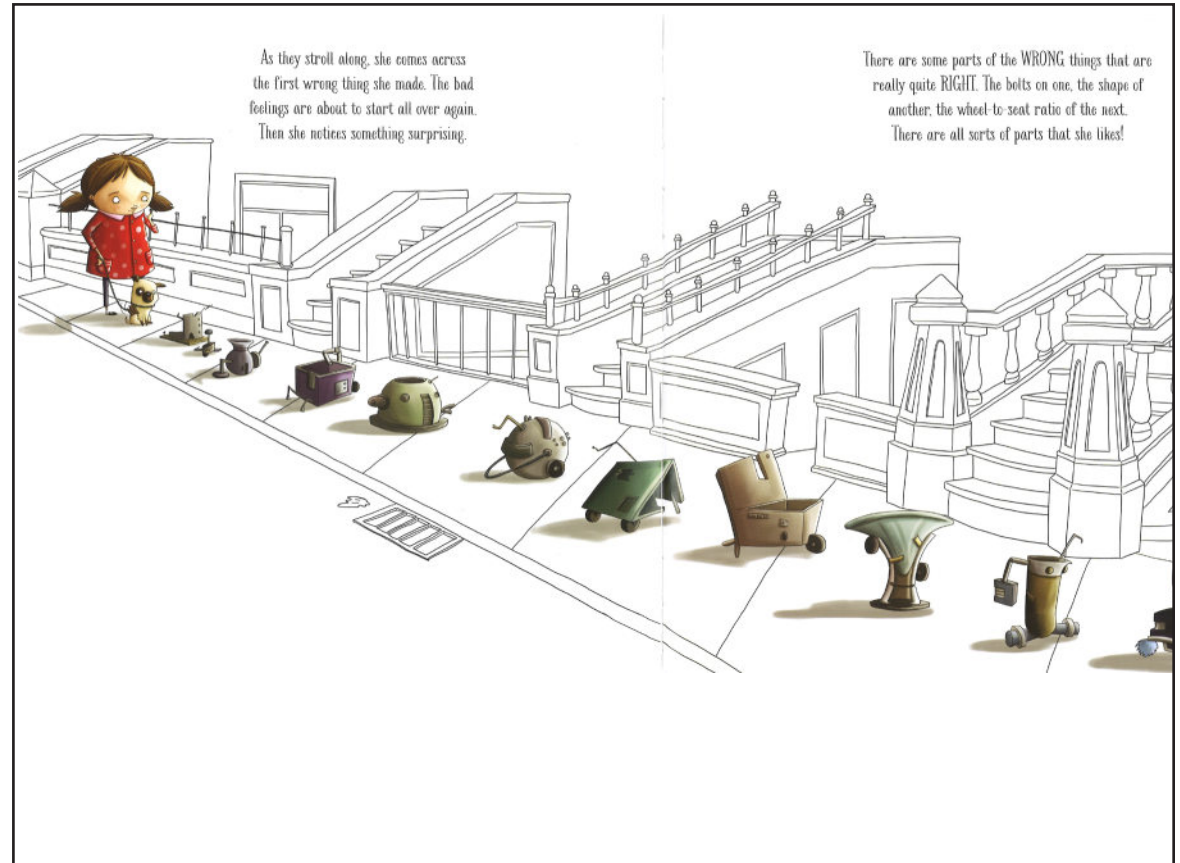
Solution — Something CHANGED

LITERAL SOLUTION: The neighborhood animals saw Dex save Cleevis, who was stuck in a tree, proving he was indeed a superhero who truly helps anyone in need.

Problems & Solutions

Right before the last bell rang, Lilly sneaked the drawing into Mr. Slinger's book bag.

That night Lilly drew a new picture of Mr. Slinger and wrote a story about him, too.

LITERAL PROBLEM: When she took out her purse in the middle of class, Mr. Slinger took it away, and she got angry.

LITERAL SOLUTION: Lilly realized she was wrong and apologized the next day with a new picture and story. Mr. Slinger forgave her for the mean note.

They are shocked to discover that the thing isn't magnificent. Or good. It isn't even kind-of-sort-of okay. It is all WRONG. The girl tosses it aside and gives it another go.

As they stroll along, she comes across the first wrong thing she made. The bad feelings are about to start all over again. Then she notices something surprising.

There are some parts of the WRONG things that are really quite RIGHT. The bolts on one, the shape of another, the wheel-to-seat ratio of the next. There are all sorts of parts that she likes!
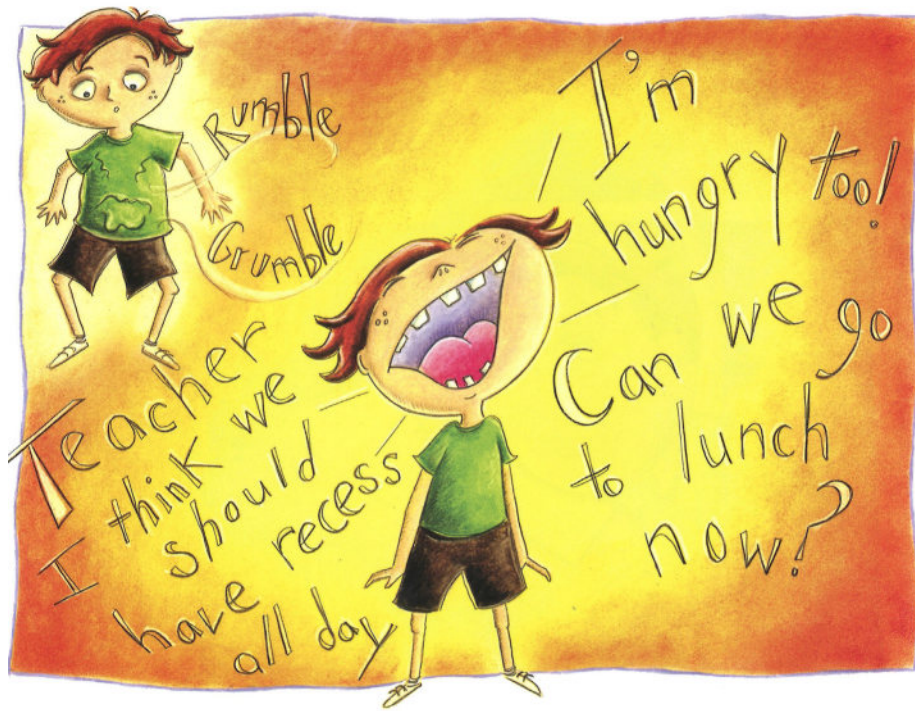
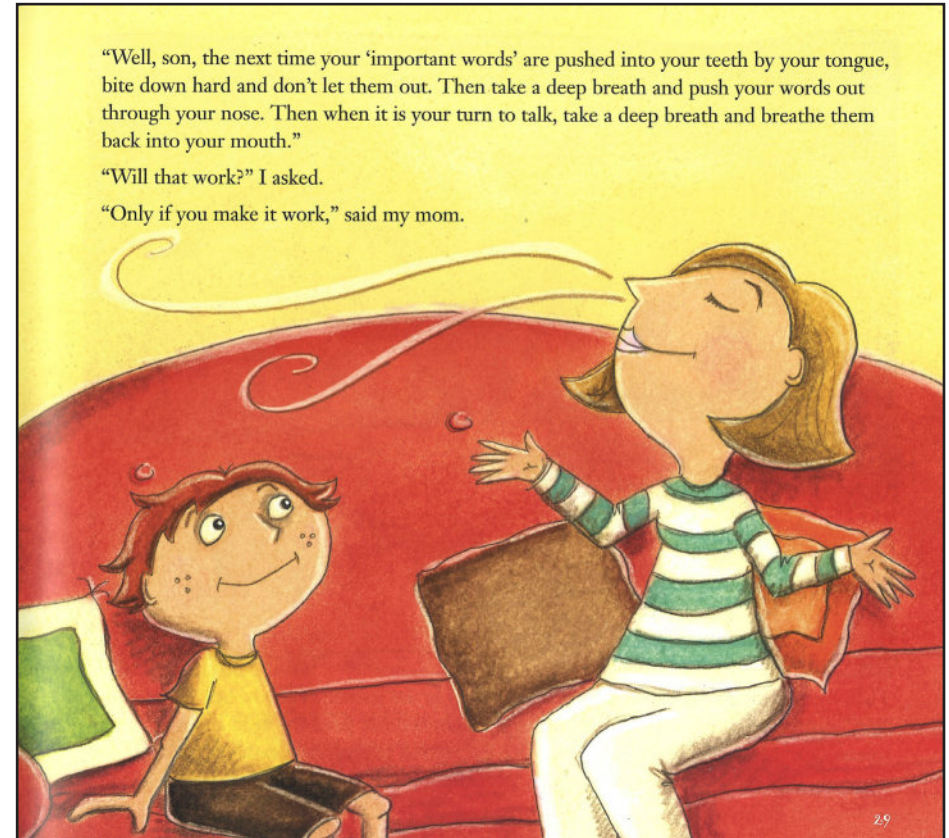LITERAL PROBLEM: A little girl and her dog tried to make a magnificent thing (a sidecar) and failed.

LITERAL SOLUTION: The little girl took the best parts of her previous attempts and finally built a sidecar for her dog.
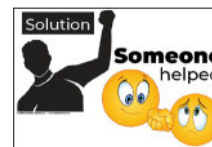
Rumble Grumble

Teacher I think we should have recess all day

I'm hungry too! Can we go to lunch now?

My tummy started to *rumble*, and then it started to *grumble*. My words began to *wiggle*, and then they did the *jiggle*. My tongue pushed all of my important words into my teeth and my volcano erupted!

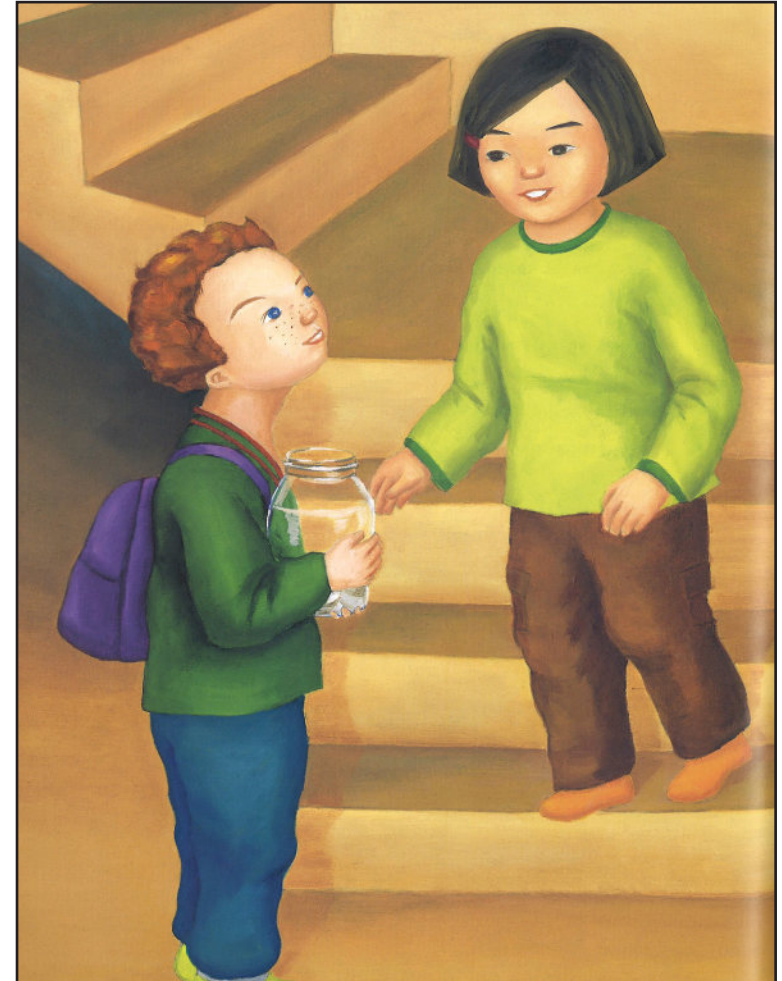"Well, son, the next time your 'important words' are pushed into your teeth by your tongue, bite down hard and don't let them out. Then take a deep breath and push your words out through your nose. Then when it is your turn to talk, take a deep breath and breathe them back into your mouth."

"Will that work?" I asked.

"Only if you make it work," said my mom.

29

Problem with himself

LITERAL PROBLEM:
Louis interrupted
others.

Solution **Someone helped**

LITERAL SOLUTION: Louis' mother taught him a breathing technique to prevent him from interrupting.

LITERAL PROBLEM: The kids on the bus made fun of Unhei's hard-to-pronounce Korean name.

LITERAL SOLUTION: Unhei's classmate Joey helped her see how important her name and heritage are.

Problems & Solutions

Then from her pack pulled Katie Sue

a jump rope clean and bright.

"Hey, Jeanie Beanie," sang Katie Sue.

"Let's try this jump rope out!"

Here's one thing true — until that day

no one **DARED** ask Mean Jean to play.

But that Katie Sue just hopped and jumped and skipped away.

"I like ice cream,
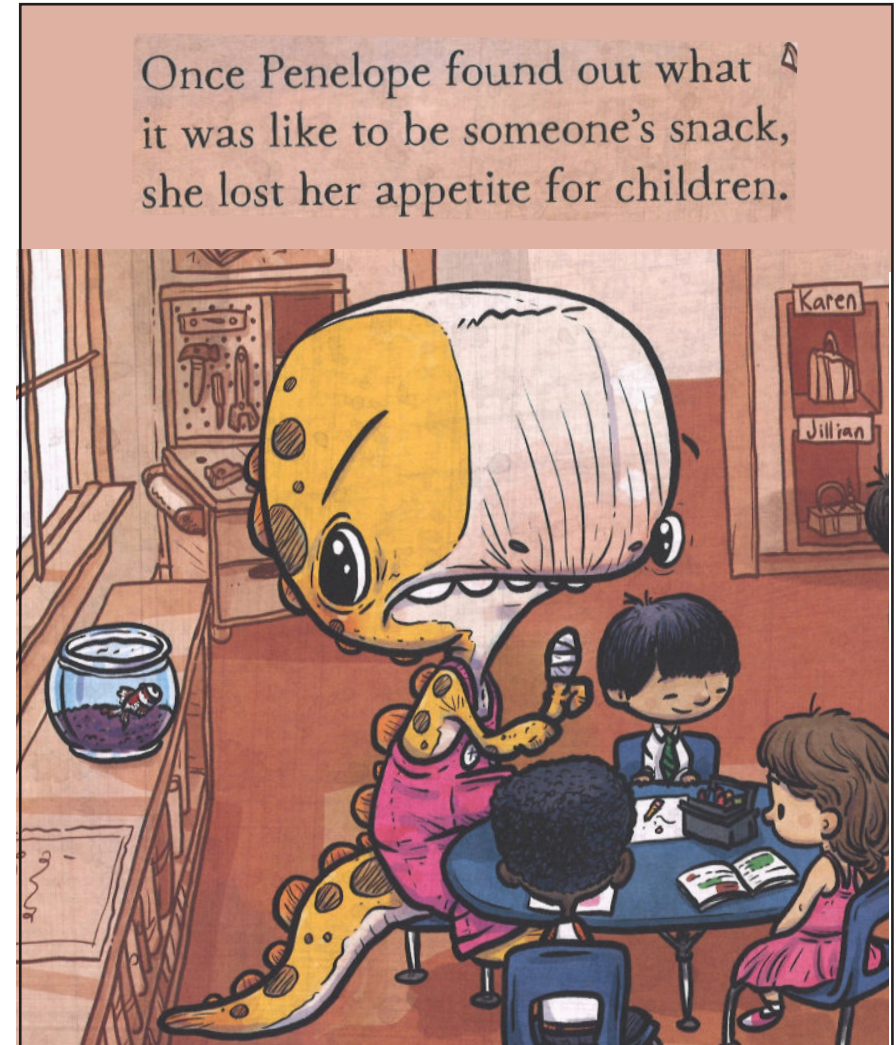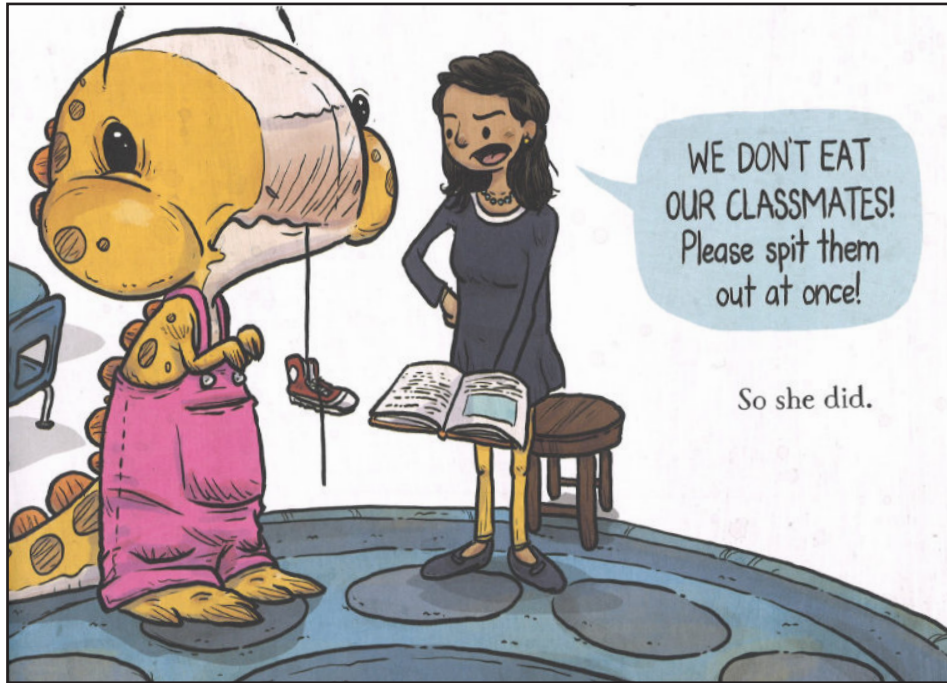
I like tea,

I want Jean to

jump with me!"

LITERAL PROBLEM: Mean Jean was a bully to the other kids on the playground at recess.

LITERAL SOLUTION: A new kid, Katie Sue, treated her as a friend, and Mean Jean became friendly.
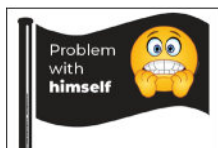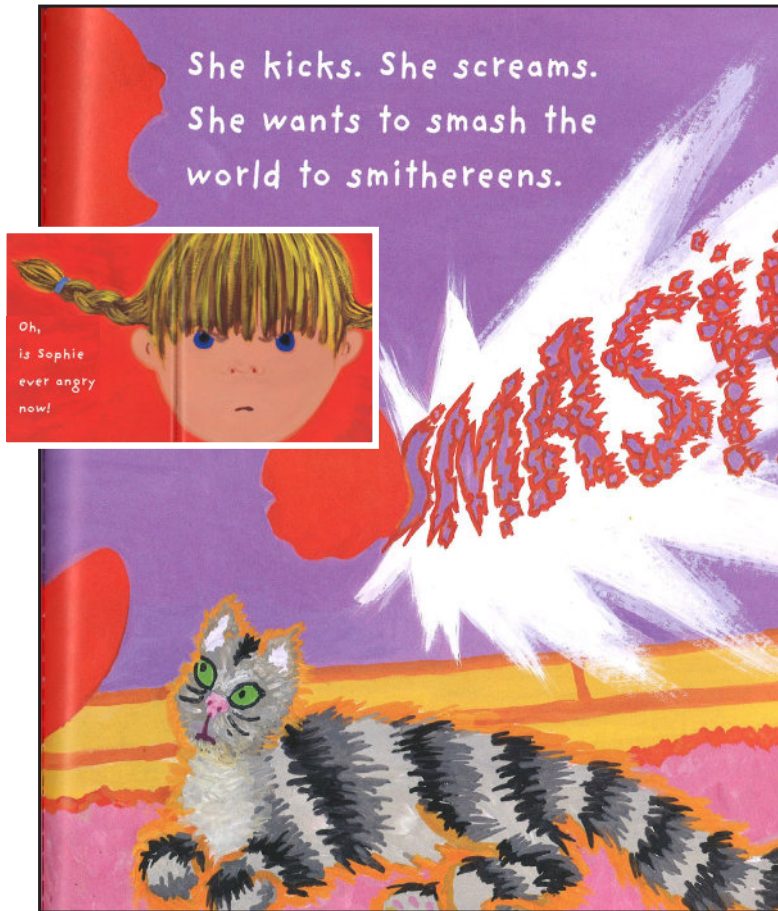
WE DON'T EAT OUR CLASSMATES! Please spit them out at once!

So she did.

Once Penelope found out what it was like to be someone's snack, she lost her appetite for children.

Problem with himself

LITERAL PROBLEM: Penelope, the dinosaur, could not resist eating her human classmates.

Solution — Someone helped

LITERAL SOLUTION: Penelope realized how it felt to be eaten when Walter the fish bit her on the finger.

She kicks. She screams. She wants to smash the world to smithereens.

Oh, is Sophie ever angry now!

SMASH

The wide world comforts her.

LITERAL PROBLEM: When Sophie got angry, she was ready to "smash the world to smithereens."

Problem with **himself**

LITERAL SOLUTION: Sophie climbed a tree and was comforted by the surrounding nature.

Solution

Something helped